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## Hangers

Martin Malone

You pick your way through his last things,  
aware that you are struggling.  
And here's this, just wood and metal pins.  
What else off which to drape a ghost?  
Rubberstamped 23116988: one brother,  
conscript, Private, standard-issue.  
Failing to clear some sense of anniversary,  
you put it back on the rail and close the door,  
then polish a cap-badge, put his medal  
in your pocket and head for the beach;  
thoughts of your last conversation worn  
against the silence. How it ended, hanging...